EXHIBIT

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA ERIE DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ex rel.)
DILBAGH SINGH, M.D., PAUL KIRSCH,)
M.D., V. RAO NADELLA, M.D., and)
MARTIN JACOBS, M.D.,

Relators,

vs.) Civil Action No. 04-186E

BRADFORD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER,)
V&S MEDICAL ASSOCIATES, LLC,)
PETER VACCARO, M.D., KAMRAN SALEH,)
M.D., and DOES I through XX,)

Defendants.

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DEPOSITION OF DILBAGH SINGH, M.D.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2007

Deposition of DILBAGH SINGH, M.D., called as a witness by the Defendant Bradford Regional Medical Center, taken pursuant to Notice of Deposition and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, by and before Joy A. Hartman, a Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, at the offices of Stone Law Office, 1400 Allegheny Building, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, commencing at 10:10 a.m. on the day and date above set forth.

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1 year. Probably in the '80s sometime.

- Do you presently have a license to practice medicine in Pennsylvania?
 - Yes, I do. Α.
 - Do you also have a medical license in New York? Q.
- That's right.
 - Are there any restrictions and limitations on Q. your license?
 - Α. None that I know of.

MR. MULHOLLAND: Before we go any further, Andy, I was neglecting to mention that I was going to propose we enter into the same stipulation that we did for Dr. Kirsch's deposition.

What that has to do with, for you two gentlemen, is that Mr. Stone had objected to a number of questions that Mr. Rychcik and I had asked Dr. Nadella and Dr. Kirsch yesterday and instructed them not to answer.

We took exception with those instructions, and we have asked the court reporter to mark certain pages from their depositions for further review, and we may take it up with the

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Court as to whether or not those questions should have been answered.

So I believe what we stipulated to yesterday is to the extent I asked or Mr.

Rychcik asked questions of either Dr. Kirsch or Dr. Nadella yesterday, and Mr. Stone objected and instructed them not to answer, that we would assume that we would ask you and in Dr.

Jacobs' deposition, Dr. Jacobs, the same questions, and that he would object in the same manner.

Is that okay with you, Andy?

MR. STONE: Yes. That is correct. I think it is fair to say that if the same questions were asked of Dr. Singh and of Dr. Jacobs that you asked to Dr. Nadella, I would have the same objection and make the same arguments; and, of course, you would take the same exception to that, to my instruction to the witness not to answer.

MR. MULHOLLAND: Thus, we would reserve the right to ask the Court to allow us to ask the same questions of Dr. Singh and Dr. Jacobs.

1 MR. STONE: Yes. I think that would be correct.

MR. RYCHCIK: I join in the stipulation on behalf of V&S and Dr. Vaccaro and Dr. Saleh.

MR. MULHOLLAND: Thank you.

- Q. Doctor, are you specializing in any particular type of medical practice today?
 - A. No. I do general practice.
- Q. General practice?
- 10 A. General medicine, general practice.
- 11 Q. Are you Board certified by any specialty board?
- 12 A. No, I am not.

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- Q. Did you ever take a Board certification exam and fail to pass?
- 15 A. No, I didn't take any.
- Q. Doctor, can you please briefly describe your education, starting with the your college education, moving on through medical school, and then any residency programs or internships that you may have participated in?
- A. Oh, that will take you backward then now from my time of graduation?
- 23 Q. Yes.

one criteria that you would use to decide where to refer some patients. What other criteria, if any, do you use when you decide to refer a patient for needed medical services?

- A. That is the main thing. The main thing is choice and also the convenience for the family and the patient, where they can transport easily and all of that, yes. It does play a lot of role in that. In any practice, it will.
- Q. Does any financial relationship that you have with an entity to which you refer patients that would influence your decision to refer?

MR. STONE: I'm going to object to questions along this line to refer for reasons that Judge Cohill has previously indicated that the business practices and professional practices of the Plaintiffs is not an issue in the case, and, therefore, it is not relevant and discoverable, and I am going to instruct the witness not to answer.

MR. MULHOLLAND: And we take exception with that objection and ask that it please be certified for review by the Court.

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CONFIDENTIAL - PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

- the Medical Center to the Government that you would consider false, any specific statement?
 - A. I don't have any. None has been provided to me.
 - Q. Doctor, are you aware of any claim for payment submitted by the Medical Center to any third-party payor for unnecessary services?
 - A. Not has been provided to me. I don't know.
 - Q. Are you aware of any claim submitted to the Medical Center submitted to any third-party payor for any services that were not provided by the Medical Center?
 - A. I have no idea about those things.
 - Q. Doctor, if you could take a look at paragraph 11 in the Complaint, and let me know when you are ready to answer some questions about it.
 - A. Okay.

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Q. Doctor, this paragraph refers to a statement of material evidence that you and the other Relators filed with the Government around the time you filed the Complaint.

Have you ever seen the statement of material evidence that is referred to in this paragraph?

MR. STONE: I'm going to object to any questions with regard to the so-called disclosure statement that was filed in this case, because, again, this is the subject of a prior order by Judge Cohill.

I believe the order and opinion are clear that the Defendants at this stage are not entitled to that statement, and I believe, also, that they are not entitled to the contents of that statement by questioning the witness, the witnesses, the Relators in this case.

I would agree that the Defendants are free to question Dr. Singh and any of the other Relators with regard to any material evidence that supports the Complaint in this case, and, certainly, you have the opportunity to ask those questions here today, as you did with the other Relators in this case.

MR. MULHOLLAND: Let me just suggest that I was asking him if he had ever seen a copy of the statement of the material evidence. I hadn't got to the subject matter of that

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I know we went through this yesterday, and I presumed our stipulation would cover those questions and objections.

I just wanted to know to lay the foundation for a question that I think even you, Mr. Stone, would admit to be valid, and that is a question about the subject matter of the statement that I could ask him.

If he hasn't seen the statement, there is no use to ask any other questions about it.

MR. STONE: I think -- my only point is I don't think you are entitled to know what that communication was.

I think what you are entitled to know is the material evidence that supports the Complaint in this case. I think you have been asking those questions, and you are entitled to continue asking those questions.

But I think the Order is clear that the disclosure statement itself is a communication with the Government that we believe is privileged, and the Court has ruled that it is

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not discoverable at this stage.

So just as the statement itself is not discoverable in terms of producing that statement, I think the questions about what is in that statement are equally off limits.

MR. MULHOLLAND: Well, I haven't even gotten to those questions. I just wanted to know if he saw a copy of the statement of material evidence. If he didn't see one, then he, obviously, can't answer questions about it.

MR. STONE: You can ask him the question if he remembers seeing it or not; but anything further than that, anything about the communication, what was in the communication, I think are off limits.

- Doctor, do you remember seeing a copy of the Q. statement of material evidence that was referred to in paragraph 11 of your Complaint.
 - Α. The statement regarding what?
- 0. There is a reference to something called a statement of material evidence in paragraph 11 of your complaint.
 - Can you explain to me what is the statement of

- Q. 10 to 15 or 15 to 20 to buy the camera or to lease it?
- A. For the buy -- for buying the camera, for that kind of a camera, buying, not leasing, buying it. A lease would run into, maybe, a few hundred dollars per month if we take it for three years or five years, and if you have a calculator, I could calculate for you how much it would cost with interest. It is not that difficult.
- Q. Aside from your experience as a physician who has occasion to lease equipment, do you have any other special expertise in valuing medical equipment?
- A. Not expertise. I am not in that business; but looking at the equipment and getting a couple or three quotes from different vendors, one has to make up their mind what is available in the market and what they are charging.
 - Q. Do you have a nuclear camera in your office?
 - A. No.

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- Q. Do you have any plans to put a nuclear camera in your office?
 - MR. STONE: I am going to object to any questions about Dr. Singh's practice and his

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plans, because it is irrelevant, and it is the subject of a prior order, and I direct the doctor not to answer.

MR. MULHOLLAND: Again, I will ask that that be marked for certification to the Court; but I will say that in response, his prior testimony immediately before that question, I think made it relevant in terms of his knowledge or expertise relative to the value of equipment.

MR. STONE: Well, I think we can argue about that when we argue the issue to Judge Cohill.

(Question certified for later discussion.)

Q. Doctor, just let ask you another question on the lines of trying to again probe your knowledge of the value of the equipment. I believe you stated you have an investment interest in Tri-County Diagnostics?

MR. STONE: I'm also going to object to that question and direct him not to answer.

(Question certified for later discussion.)

Q. Did you play any role in terms of selecting equipment for Tri-County Diagnostics?

- 1 is what administration wants to do and not go around
- 2 it, and then do only with one or two physicians,
- 3 preferentially, just select them because of volume or
- 4 | because of their practices or whatever it is, and that
- 5 others are left out in the cold, and they have
- 6 | supported the institution for so many years. Many of
- 7 | us have been there for almost 25 years.
- 8 Q. Is it your understanding that this policy on
- 9 physicians with significantly competing relationships
- 10 | is still in effect at the hospital?
- 11 A. I do not know whether it is or it is not, but
- 12 | it has not been implemented. That, I know.
- 13 | Q. How do you know that?
- 14 | A. Because of whatever has gone on between Vaccaro
- 15 | and Saleh and the hospital. Whatever arrangements
- 16 | they have privately now going on, which most of the
- 17 | people know it, that they have arrangements with them.
- 18 | that they are getting paid for some equipment, some
- 19 money here and some money there.
- 20 | What kind of monies they are paying them and
- 21 | why they are paying them, we don't know that as to
- 22 | what kind of arrangement they have with them.
- Q. Did the hospital ever send any communication to

1 you or to Dr. Nadella about whether or not your 2 interest in Tri-County would violate this policy? 3 · MR. STONE: I will object and direct you 4 not to answer. 5 MR. MULHOLLAND: Again, I'm asking about 6 the policy, which I think is directly relevant, 7 based on allegations made in the Complaint about it not being applied to Drs. Vaccaro and 8 9 Saleh. 10 To the extent that you are MR. STONE: 11 focusing on Dr. Singh and Dr. Nadella's 12 practice, I think it is irrelevant. 13 Again, you can ask him whether he knows 14 whether it is currently in effect, and whether 15 it is applied to anybody else. Again, getting 16 into his conduct, I think is irrelevant. 17 MR. MULHOLLAND: Well, again, I will take 18 exception to that objection and ask that that 19 page be marked and certified to the Court. 2.0 (Question certified for later discussion.) 21 0. Let me ask you a different question, Doctor:

Has the Medical Center ever made an inquiry to you

about interests that you have with competing entities

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for the purpose of applying the policy?

MR. STONE: Again, I will object and

direct him not to answer.

(Question certified for later discussion.)

Q. Doctor, in the third paragraph of the letter that you have in front of you --

MR. MULHOLLAND: By the way, please mark that objection, as well.

- Q. Doctor, in the third paragraph of the letter you have in front of you, you seem to express concern over how the Medical Center uses its charitable resources; is that correct?
- A. That is what it says.

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- Q. What, specifically, were your concerns about the Medical Center's use of its charitable resources that you voiced in this letter?
- A. See, it is a very broad thing, because the hospital is supported by communities. Okay? And every time there is money required for certain things to be done in the hospital, renovations or new equipment they want to buy, they do expect some community members or some community people or some businesses to keep on supporting them.

- 1 | Onderdonk?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. Do you recall who Mr. Onderdonk is?
- A. I don't remember the name, particularly, but that is where the call came from.
 - Q. This letter seems to suggest that he works for Philips Medical Systems?
 - A. That is what it says on the letterhead, yes.
 - Q. In the first paragraph, he is thanking you for the opportunity -- "Thank you for the opportunity to propose a Philips' solution for your nuclear medicine project in Bradford."
 - A. As I said, we do ask for different modalities at different times from our office, not only for the camera, but for other things, too, and this happens to be a camera.
 - Q. He references a nuclear medicine project in Bradford.
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. At this time period, was there a nuclear medicine project in Bradford you were considering?
- A. We were considering in our own office, yes -
 MR. STONE: I'm going to object to any

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testimony regarding Dr. Singh's business plan or ventures, again, as being the subject of Judge Cohill's prior order, and I direct him not to answer any questions about the project.

However, this is a letter that was produced with regard to the discovery in this case, and he can answer whatever questions he knows about the contents of the letter and, generally, the circumstances; but I'm not going to let him get into any venture he may have been considering.

MR. RYCHCIK: Again, I disagree. I think to the extent that he is relying on the information in here, that is relevant as to whether or not this was solely intended just to gather information regarding the lease, the sublease at issue; but if you are instructing the witness not to answer --

MR. STONE: I am instructing him not to answer with regard to any plans that he may have had to do any kind of a business venture.

But, obviously, to the extent that it is relevant to the claims in the case, which is

the value of this particular equipment, I think you can ask him about it, and he can answer those questions.

MR. MULHOLLAND: I think any letter that was produced in discovery and which is subject to the witness' testimony today would allow for questions about the meaning of terms in the letter. So I think the question about what is meant by a nuclear medicine project is a fair question, notwithstanding your objection, but with which we would take an exception.

MR. STONE: I mean, is there a question on the table? Maybe we should go back. I think I already instructed him not to answer. Do you want to check?

(Previous question and answer read back as follows:

"Question: At this time period, was there a nuclear medicine project in Bradford you were considering?

"Answer: We were considering in our own office, yes --")

MR. STONE: Again, I will direct him not

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to answer with regard to any questions about
any business venture or plans that he had for a
business venture, because I don't think it is
germane to this case, and

MR. RYCHCIK: I don't think you can have your cake and eat it, too, and ask for or rely upon a document for specific information, as Mr. Mulholland said, and not permit us to ask questions about the terms.

If you could note this page, as well.

(Question certified for later discussion.)

THE WITNESS: Do you want me to answer the single-head camera thing that they had and that is what the lease is?

MR. STONE: Doctor, let him ask the questions.

THE WITNESS: I'm sorry.

- Q. Doctor, let me ask you this: You clearly, from this letter, approached a Philips Medical Systems representative to get information regarding various nuclear cameras, correct?
 - A. Whatever information they could send, yes.
 - Q. Well, you were asking for information about --

- Do you know if they offer the same types of 1 Q. 2 services? 3 That is the same -- it is the same kind of 4 services are offered, nuclear imaging, yes. 5 Q. Do you know if the camera at BRMC is newer than 6 the camera located at Tri-County? 7 I cannot predict that. I don't know. Α. 8 Have you ever been subject to a non-compete 0. 9 agreement? 10 MR. STONE: I'm going to object to this 11 question, and I instruct him not to answer for 12 the reasons stated in Judge Cohill's order. 13 MR. RYCHCIK: Again, I would like to note 14 this page for purposes of providing it to Judge 15 Cohill. 16 (Question certified for later discussion.) 17 Q. Have you ever required a non-compete agreement 18 of any of your employees? 19 MR. STONE: Again, I'll object to the
 - MR. RYCHCIK: One of the things that -MR. STONE: And I instruct him not to

question for the same reason.

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MR. RYCHCIK: One of the things that has been testified to is the non-compete portion of the sublease agreement between V&S and BRMC; and because of that, once again, I think we are entitled to refute allegations regarding the non-compete portion of the sublease and the value of the non-compete portion of the sublease with respect to what is being alleged here by the Relators in their Complaint.

MR. STONE: The value of the non-compete or the value of the lease, it seems to me, is an element of a defense that you have the burden of proving. Now, I don't think you have a right to cross-examine this witness to try to make him an expert so that you can somehow establish an element in a defense that you are trying to establish.

You have asked this witness and other witnesses their opinion about it, but that has nothing to do with whether you have met your burden to establish an element of the exception.

It seems to me that if you have to prove

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that there was fair market value for this particular part of the agreement, that is something that you have to do independent of what this witness thinks about it.

And so, therefore, I don't understand why his opinion on what a non-compete should be has anything to do with your defense in this case.

MR. RYCHCIK: Well, the allegations came from him in this Complaint, and the allegations regarding the non-compete came from him; and as a result of that, we are entitled to refute those allegations and to understand the basis for the allegations and the basis for the conclusions that he and his fellow Relators made prior to making those allegations.

MR. MULHOLLAND: Or the lack of information about the same.

MR. STONE: The allegations about the non-compete and the value of the non-compete didn't come from us. We have alleged that those are kickbacks, that the payments that were made pursuant to that lease were for the purpose of inducing referrals. Your defense is

that somehow this is related to the fair market value of a non-compete.

This witness isn't, you know, going to be the determination of whether that is fair market value for that particular service that you are alleging that you purchased through this lease agreement.

MR. RYCHCIK: I think, quite frankly, there has been testimony over the course of the last two days regarding the value of the other services portion of the sublease; and with respect to those allegations, I think we are entitled to explore those issues and to explore the basis for the testimony that has been given by the Relators as to those values.

MR. STONE: Well, in this case, these witnesses are not -- if the value of that particular part of the contract is an issue, these witnesses are not going to be the witnesses that are going to testify that that is not a proper value.

MR. RYCHCIK: But that still doesn't give you the basis to instruct him not to answer

these questions.

MR. MULHOLLAND: Because we can put them on the stand to establish that they have no knowledge of that, which then goes to the credibility of their allegations, and, secondly, it narrows down who can testify about it.

I just note for the record that in the Complaint, you alleged in paragraph 82, that \$23,655 a month was paid under the lease for all other rights and duties including a covenant not to compete.

In paragraph 85, you say that the hospital has no need for the non-compete because of the policy on competing relationships. Then you say, assuming a need, the amount is commercially unreasonable.

You also say in 87 that the sublease agreement is a sham, which I understand that to be your argument, which we would reject; but in 88, you say the purpose of the sublease prohibits them from competing, and then the primary purpose is to give a substantial

financial incentive.

All of it makes any of these Relators information about non-competes that they have been party to, their understanding of the non-compete, absolutely relevant to our defense.

MR. STONE: Well, it is not relevant, because what they have done in their own practices is not before the Court. That doesn't justify anything that V&S and BRMC have done. It is not a defense. It is not an exception to the Stark Law, and it is not a safe harbor to the Anti-kickback.

So these doctors could have all kinds of different arrangements, and what they have done in their own practices is not relevant to what V&S and BRMC has done and whether that is legal.

MR. MULHOLLAND: Well, we think it is absolutely relevant, and we also think it is relevant to establish whether or not they know what they are talking about when they make these kind of allegations against our clients.

At this point, I will say let's leave it to the Judge.

MR. STONE: Again, the Court will determine whether they know what they are talking about when they made these allegations.

I mean, there is certainly sufficient evidence that we have obtained directly from the Defendants about what the Defendants are doing.

So the opinion that Dr. Singh has on whether it is a good non-compete or a properly valued non-compete may be irrelevant to whether what you have done is legal or illegal.

MR. MULHOLLAND: We don't think it is; but at this point, I would just join in the exception that Mr. Rychcik made to your objection and ask that we continue, so that Dr. Jacobs can have his say today.

MR. STONE: I'm trying to remember where we were.

BY MR. RYCHCIK:

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Q. I asked you if you required a non-compete agreement of any of your employees?

MR. STONE: And I'm going to object that and instruct him not to answer for the same reasons that we have argued over and over and over.

(Question certified for later discussion.)

- Q. You testified earlier you wished that you would have been able to have Dr. Saleh have a non-compete agreement. Do you recall that?
- A. Not wish to have, but I think we didn't have because of the visa and all that being there. So if it was not there, it was not there. I didn't care.
- Q. Would you agree that if it is enforceable, a non-compete agreement can provide value?
- A. I don't know. I have never had a chance to go that route. I don't know.
- Q. Why was it that you thought it would be nice to have a non-compete with Dr. Saleh?
- A. I think it serves, basically, only the purpose that if somebody stays with you in an area for more than a few years, then if they open up their own shop next to you, you end up losing your business to this guy whom you hired first and hoped to be kind of continuing the services, then for that reason only, I

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	Α.	From	Bradford	Hospital,	СТ	and	MRI?
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- Q. Yes. Are there services available in Bradford for CT and MRI at any place other than the Medical Center?
- A. Not that I know of, not in Bradford area. But in adjoining area, yes. Olean, yes. Olean is only under 20 miles, maybe 15, 18 miles from Bradford.
- Q. If you were to refer a patient for a nuclear cardiology test, did you ever consider the type of equipment needed to do the test?

MR. STONE: Again, I will object to the extent that you are asking Dr. Singh about his practices with regard to making referrals.

I think it is -- I don't know if you wanted to rephrase that in a different way that is sort of gets at your discussion earlier, maybe it can be asked a different way.

MR. MULHOLLAND: Again, I will take exception to your objection, but I will ask another question.

(Question certified for later discussion.)

Q. Doctor, do physicians when they are asking where to send the patient for a nuclear cardiology

- test ever consider the type of equipment needed for 1 2 that test?
 - I think it depends on the individual physician, how they are looking at what kind of results they get from there, and what kind of equipment is being used.

Whatever information they have, they have to take a decision on that, and in medical technology, the kind of ongoing new equipment, new devices, new things, do keep on coming and one keeps on looking for upgrading to provide better services to each and everybody.

- Do you know if the equipment, the nuclear 0. cardiology equipment presently in place at Bradford Regional Medical Center is newer than that available at Tri-County?
 - Α. I don't know. I don't know.
- Q. Do you refer to both Tri-County and Bradford Regional Medical Center?

MR. STONE: Again, I will object to the extent that it asks questions about Dr. Singh's business and his referral relationships that are not relevant.

(Question marked for later discussion.)

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CERTIFICATE

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

SS.:

COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY

I, Joy A. Hartman, a Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby certify that before me personally appeared DILBAGH SINGH, M.D., the witness herein, who then was by me first duly cautioned and sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in the taking of his oral deposition in the cause aforesaid; that the testimony then given by him as above set forth was reduced to stenotypy by me, in the presence of said witness, and afterwards transcribed by computer-aided transcription under my direction.

I do further certify that this deposition was taken at the time and place specified in the foregoing caption, and signature was not waived.

I do further certify that I am not a relative of or counsel or attorney for any party hereto, nor am I otherwise interested in the event of this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on this 26th day of August, 2007.

The foregoing certification does not apply to any reproduction of this transcript in any respect unless under the direct control and/or direction of the certifying reporter.

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NOTARIAL SEAL

JOY A. HARYMAN, Notary Public

City of Pittsburgh, County of Allegheny

My Commission Expires May 9, 2010

Joy A. Hartman, Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

My commission expires May 9, 2010.